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73. The method as recited in claim 72 further comprising the step of placing a porous screen over the wound prior to said locating step.

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74. The method of Claim 72 wherein said maintaining step is conducted in alternating periods of application and non-application of the negative pressure.

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75. The method of claim 74 wherein each of said alternating periods is about 5 minutes.

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76. The method of claim 72 wherein said selected stage of healing is cessation of partial thickness burn progression.

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77. The method of claim 72 wherein said selected stage of healing is a reduction in bacterial density in the wound of at least 50%.

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78. The method as recited in claim 72 wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

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79. A method of promoting attachment of a skin flap onto a wound comprising steps of:

- (a) applying reduced pressure to a region of skin adjacent to the wound,
- (b) forming the flap by detaching skin from said region,
- (c) attaching the flap to the wound, and
- (d) applying and maintaining reduced pressure to the flap to promote blood circulation within the flap.

Remarks

New Claims 38-79 have been added to more completely claim certain aspects of the present invention. In particular, Claims 38-78 have been added to cover the aspect of the present invention wherein a support means or supporting step are used to hold "said cover out of contact with the wound."

Support for Claims 38-78 can be found, for example, in the specification at page 14, lines 15-19; page 23, line 34 through page 24, line 3; page 24, line 24 through page 25, line 10; and Figures 1, 5, and 6.

New Claim 79 has been added to cover the aspect of the present invention wherein reduced pressure is applied to promote attachment of a skin flap. Support for Claim 79 can be found, for example, in the specification at page 28, line 30 through page 29, line 19 and in Example 4 (page 35, line 20 through page 37, line 34).

In light of the foregoing, no new matter has been added by the amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL AND SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation
Attorney for Applicants

By: 

Donald R. Piper, Jr.
PTO Registration No. 29,337

Telephone: 215/563-4100
Facsimile: 215/563-4044